

Finding the Time

Your family passes its values about education and work to your child. Encourage her to explore her own interests within that value system. Giving her time for activities that she likes is one way to help her enter a career that she will find enjoyable and rewarding.

You can help your child become an explorer of the world by encouraging curiosity.

- When your child wants to try a new activity, explain that she must stick with it for a specific period of time. For example, a child learning to play a musical instrument may find practicing boring. If she sticks with it long enough to learn to play a few tunes, however, that attitude may change.
- Monitor your child's scheduled activities. If she has given the activity a chance and is not enjoying it, it may be time to try something else.
- Be sure an activity you are thinking about for your child matches her interests rather than your own.
- A child who shows curiosity or asks questions about an activity is actually showing an interest. For example, a young person who goes into her father's workshop to watch may enjoy taking a carpentry or woodworking class.

Activity: Earning Interest

This activity will help your child understand that her personal interests may lead to a career.

Time: On-going

Materials: Related to the activity

To Begin:

- Ask your child to list activities that interest her. You may want to give some examples.
- With your child, decide which of the activities are not possible to try at this time and cross them off the list.
- Next, decide which activities will cost money and draw a dollar sign next to those on the list.
- Post the list on the refrigerator or a bulletin board.
- When your child has time, encourage her to choose an activity from the list to try. Explain that the activity should be tried at least twice before deciding if it is enjoyable or not.
- Leave the list posted and check off activities as she tries them.
- Encourage your child to make additions to the list.